

REMARKS

The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 26, 2006. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, and 16 to 18 remain in the application. Claims 13 to 15 have been canceled. Claims 1, 5 and 9 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 13 to 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,122,403 (Rhoads). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention generally concerns managing images in an image capture device. Images are captured, and specific information is generated relating to the captured image. Image data corresponding to the captured image is recorded on a recording medium. The specific information may be embedded into the image data using a digital watermarking technique. Among its many features, the present invention includes the feature that the specific information is generated simultaneously with recording of the image data.

By virtue of this arrangement, the specific information can often be generated in real-time, as described in one embodiment of the invention at page 20, lines 2 to 6.

Referring specifically to claim language, independent Claim 1 as amended is directed to an image capture device. The device includes an image capture unit adapted to capture an image, and a specific information generation unit adapted to generate specific information relating to the captured image simultaneously with a process for recording image data corresponding to the captured image on the recording medium. The device also includes a recording unit adapted to record the image data and the specific information on

the recording medium, a reproducing unit adapted to reproduce the image data and the specific information from the recording medium, and an embedding unit adapted to embed the specific information reproduced from the recording medium into the image data reproduced from the recording medium using a digital watermarking technique.

Additionally, the device includes a control unit adapted to provide the specific information and the image data reproduced from the recording medium to the embedding unit if a first process is selected by a user, and avoid providing the specific information reproduced from the recording medium to the embedding unit if a second process is selected by the user.

Independent Claims 5 and 9 are directed to a method and a storage medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the device of Claim 1.

The applied art, namely Rhoads, is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of the present invention, and in particular is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the feature of generating specific information relating to a captured image simultaneously with a process for recording image data corresponding to the captured image on a recording medium.

As understood by Applicant, Rhoads discloses a program which allows a user to embed watermarks in images and audio. A user may enter data to be associated with the watermark.

Pages 3 and 6 of the Office Action assert that Rhoads (Column 68, lines 40 to 45, Column 69, lines 10 to 30 and 50 to 66 and Column 73, lines 15 to 50) discloses a specific information generation unit adapted to generate specific information for image data of a captured image, and a recording unit adapted to record the image data and the specific information on the recording medium.

However, the portions of Rhoads cited by the Office Action are not seen to

disclose or suggest at least the feature of generating specific information relating to a captured image simultaneously with a process for recording image data corresponding to the captured image on the recording medium.

Rather, the cited portions of Rhoads disclose that self-extraction of web page objects automatically generates thumbnail images corresponding to the extracted pages, which are then stored in a subdirectory in the computer's file system. See Rhoads, Column 68, lines 40 to 45. In a watermark, data such as an image serial number, transaction ID, or a person's name may be added, although Rhoads suggests adding a creator ID which can be used to reference the creator's current information via an on-line service. See Rhoads, Column 69, lines 10 to 30. To add a watermark, a user selects an image which has been previously downloaded to the computer, and then selects menu items to add and save a watermark. See Rhoads, Column 69, lines 50 to 60. In the process of embedding a watermark, a user enters information such as a creator ID, copyright information or cataloging information before selecting "OK" to embed the watermark. See Rhoads, Column 73, lines 15 to 50.

However, none of these portions of Rhoads are seen to disclose or suggest that specific information relating to a captured image is generated simultaneously with a process for recording image data corresponding to the captured image on a recording medium.

Moreover, Rhoads is seen to suggest that generation of his creator ID precedes recording of an image. Specifically, the user registers with a website and is issued the creator ID, which may subsequently be added to a captured image. See Rhoads, Column 72, line 63 to Column 73, line 15. Moreover, Rhoads is seen to suggest that generation of a logo corresponds to extraction of a web page, rather than any timing having

to do with a process of recording image data corresponding to a captured image on a recording medium. See Rhoads, Column 68, lines 40 to 45.

In fact, Rhoads is seen to suggest that the processes for generating the "specific information" referred to in the Office Action and the process for recording the image data on a recording medium are separate from each other. For example, Figures 47 to 49 of Rhoads clearly show copyright information, creator ID information and adult content information being entered and added to an image already selected and presented in the background. See Rhoads, Figures 47 to 49 and Column 73, lines 15 to 56. As the entry of this "specific information" (as referred to in the Office Action) occurs via selection of menu options for an image already retrieved from memory and displayed, it is not seen how Rhoads could possibly generate this information simultaneously with the process for recording the image data corresponding to the image on the recording medium. See Column 69, lines 53 to 56 and Column 73, lines 15 to 56.

Therefore, the cited portions of Rhoads are not seen to disclose or suggest at least the feature of generating specific information relating to a captured image simultaneously with a process for recording image data corresponding to the captured image on a recording medium.

Accordingly, Claims 1, 5 and 9 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests same.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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